# Former lawyer jailed for supplying £87,000 worth of ketamine from Peterculter home



A former criminal lawyer has received an 18-month prison sentence after being found guilty of dealing nearly £87,000 worth of ketamine from her home in Peterculter. Amanda Lothian, 65, was convicted of being concerned in the supply of the controlled class B drug, which authorities uncovered during a police raid on August 28, 2020. The operation was part of a broader surge in drug-related offences that have both challenged and shocked communities during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Convicted by a jury of six women and nine men, Lothian’s trial lasted four days, with the jury returning a unanimous verdict in less than an hour. It is significant that the case highlights a troubling trend among legal practitioners becoming embroiled in serious criminal activity. Lothian, a former member of the Faculty of Advocates specialised in serious organised crime, represented herself in court, claiming she had no knowledge of the drugs found at her property. Lothian's defence rested on her assertion that she was a victim of “cuckooing”, a term used to describe individuals being exploited by criminals who use their homes for illicit activities without their consent. Nonetheless, her explanation raised eyebrows, particularly given that a significant quantity of drugs was discovered in her possession—two vacuum-packed bags of ketamine worth £71,620, along with a further £15,000 worth seized from an associate.

During her sentencing, Sheriff William Summers acknowledged Lothian's health and age but stressed that the seriousness of the offence could not be overlooked. He remarked on the well-documented harm drugs inflict on society, stressing that a custodial sentence was the only fitting response to her actions. Interestingly, law enforcement efforts targeting similar cases have increased in intensity, as authorities remain vigilant against the rising tide of drug-related crime amid the pandemic. For instance, a case featuring Gerard Nesbitt, a lawyer sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison for possessing 31 kg of cannabis resin, exemplifies the ongoing battle against legal professionals leveraging their status to perpetuate criminal enterprises.

Moreover, Lothian's case shares a concerning parallel with that of Henry Hendron, a former English barrister who was jailed for supplying drugs that led to his boyfriend's overdose death. Such instances challenge public trust in the legal profession, which is expected to uphold the law rather than contravene it. This erosion of confidence is compounded by recent convictions of multiple Scottish lawyers for a £1.48 million money-laundering operation, underscoring a systemic issue within certain circles of legal practice.

As societal challenges continue to be exacerbated by the pandemic, cases like Lothian's underscore the urgent need for robust measures and meticulous scrutiny to prevent legal professionals from straying into the criminal underbelly. While Lothian's sentence may serve as a cautionary tale, it also raises broader questions about accountability and integrity within the legal profession in Scotland and beyond.

The implications of her conviction will be felt not just in the hallways of the courtroom but across a society grappling with the ramifications of drug misuse and the challenges of law enforcement in an evolving landscape. In a climate where the stakes are high, maintaining the integrity of those who administer justice is more critical than ever.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/crime-courts/6765624/organised-crime-lawyer-jailed/), [[2]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/crime-courts/6731605/amanda-lothian-ketamine-lawyer/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/crime-courts/6765624/organised-crime-lawyer-jailed/), [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-22705930)
* Paragraph 3 – [[5]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Hendron), [[6]](https://www.scottishlegal.com/articles/three-scots-lawyers-jailed-for-money-laundering)
* Paragraph 4 – [[3]](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-22705930), [[7]](https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-56820127)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/crime-courts/6765624/organised-crime-lawyer-jailed/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.pressandjournal.co.uk/fp/news/crime-courts/6731605/amanda-lothian-ketamine-lawyer/> - Advocate Amanda Lothian, 65, was convicted of being concerned in the supply of nearly £87,000 worth of ketamine from her Peterculter country house during the Covid-19 pandemic. A jury unanimously found her guilty after a four-day trial. Police raided her property on August 28, 2020, uncovering two vacuum-packed bags of ketamine worth £71,620 and additional quantities from an associate, James Hanlon. Lothian denied knowledge of the drugs, claiming she was a victim of cuckooing. She was sentenced to 18 months in prison.
3. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-22705930> - Gerard Nesbitt, a 53-year-old lawyer, was sentenced to three-and-a-half years in prison after being found with 31kg of cannabis resin at his Glasgow flat. Nesbitt attempted to blame a homeless man for the drugs, but the jury convicted him and co-accused Iain McKenzie, 38, of being concerned in the supply of cannabis. The judge criticised Nesbitt for bringing shame upon himself and his profession.
4. <https://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/scotland/glasgow_and_west/7109628.stm> - Peter McConnville, 29, was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison for accepting a cigarette packet containing heroin and diazepam from solicitor Angela Baillie while on remand in Glasgow's Barlinnie Prison. Baillie had previously been jailed for 32 months after admitting supplying the drugs. McConnville had been charged with shooting a Glasgow barman but was later cleared.
5. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Hendron> - Henry Hendron, born 28 December 1980, is a former English barrister known for representing several celebrity clients. In 2016, he pleaded guilty to supplying 'chemsex' drugs that led to his boyfriend's overdose death. In 2023, Hendron was convicted of four offences related to buying or seeking to buy drugs from his clients. He was sentenced to 14 months in jail, with his appeal rejected in 2024.
6. <https://www.scottishlegal.com/articles/three-scots-lawyers-jailed-for-money-laundering> - Three former Scottish lawyers—Iain Robertson, Alastair Blackwood, and David Lyons—along with two other men, were sentenced to a total of 30 years and four months in prison for orchestrating a £1.48 million money-laundering operation. They were convicted of fraud and multiple charges under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, with Robertson receiving eight years, Blackwood and Lyons seven years each, and the others receiving varying sentences.
7. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-56820127> - David Brown, a former police inspector, was convicted for his role in a £2 million drug smuggling operation. In December 2018, he was caught attempting to board a ferry from Cairnryan to Northern Ireland with a truck containing cocaine, cannabis resin, and herbal cannabis. Brown claimed he was duped into trafficking the drugs by a haulage firm boss, but he was convicted along with his co-accused.